

# Salem United Methodist Church

## January 2014 Newsletter

«180 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2013

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF OF SALEM NEWS

### TO THE SALEM UMC FAITH COMMUNITY -

To the Salem UM Church Community,

Happy New Year! A New Year brings the opportunity for a new beginning. 2014 is finding Salem beginning a new chapter in its life. For ten years we have been blessed with a deacon, Rev. Janet Craswell. Even though we will miss her presence and ministry among us, we will continue to grow in the grace of Christ.

Our New Beginning starts with the process of discernment. We cannot know what our next steps are or make any decisions without searching for the mind and will of God within our faith community.

In 2014 we will be listening to God as we discern these next steps. Christie Latona, Mission Strategist for the Baltimore-Washington Conference, has been invited to guide us in this discernment process. To begin this process she has asked us to use some **SOAP**. I don't think she is reminding us to use soap when we take a shower or wash our hands. Her **SOAP** is a bit different.

By using this **SOAP** we may gain some clarity as to what God's vision is for Salem. **SOAP** is an acronym for **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pply the scriptures to our lives, and **P**ray. **SOAP** is a way to hear God speaking to us through the Bible. Christie is encouraging our faith community to read one chapter from the Book of Acts every day in the month of January. These are the steps for the **SOAP** process of discernment:

**S**-Scripture (Write down one verse that stood out to you.)

**O**-Observation (Write what you see in the verse and surrounding section.)

**A**-Application (Write how you sense God wants you to apply this verse to your life.)

**P**-Prayer (Write a short prayer of response asking God to help you do what God just showed you.)

In January we will be handing out notebooks with these guidelines for us as we use **SOAP**. Christie also asked us to consider God's will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else by asking ourselves these questions.

- *What needs to die in me in order for God's will to come forth?*
- *Is there anything I need to set aside so that I can be open to what God wants?*
- *Who is God calling us to be or do given the assets that have been entrusted to us so that the people in Brookeville/Olney area can come to know God?*

Finally, Christie invited us to pray this **Prayer for Disturbance and Vision.**

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord when, with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.

**Everyone from our church is invited to participate in this discernment process and attend a one day retreat lead by Christie on Saturday, February 8 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Conference Mission Center, 11711 East Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759.**

With the Blessings of the New Year,  
Rev. Sue

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Worship Schedule for January/February 2014

January 5 Epiphany "Rising Star" Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12  
January 12 Baptism of Our Lord "Here I Am..." Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

### Epiphany Sermon Series: "Is it all about Location?"

January 19 "Looking" Isaiah 49: 1-17; Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:35-42  
January 26 "Leaving" Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-32

February 2 "Blessed" Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12 Lay Lead-No communion  
February 9 "Availability" Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20 Communion Sunday  
February 16 "Renovating" Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37  
February 23 "Relocating" Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Matthew 5: 38-48

## DISCERNING GOD'S WILL FOR SALEM

Everyone from our church is invited to participate in this discernment process and attend a one-day retreat lead by Christie on Saturday, February 8 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Conference Mission Center, 11711 East Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759.

**HAPPY HOUR HAS BEEN CANCELLED! AS OF JANUARY 5, 2014 OUR WORSHIP SERVICES WILL RESUME TO 8:15 AND 10:00 AM**

## Salem's Ministry Leadership 2014

*The mission of Salem United Methodist Church is to glorify God in worship, introduce others to Jesus the Christ, and help persons of all ages grow in faith, knowledge, love, and service.*

### Church Council

Chair – *Debbie Ambrose* (Class of 2016)  
Recording Secretary – *Mary Abramson*  
Treasurer – *Mary Abramson*  
Membership Secretary – *Carole Roberts*  
Financial Secretary – *Sharon Craddock*  
Lay Leaders – *Bob Brown and Ginny Weinberger* (Class of 2016)  
Lay Member to Annual Conference – *Buck Bartley*  
Education Ministry Area Leader- *Barbara Achstetter*  
Mission Ministry Area Leader-*Libby Wright*  
Faith Sharing Ministry Area Leaders-*Rob Morrell and Buck Bartley*  
Finance Chair-*Kulley Bancroft*  
Stewardship Chairs- *Buck Bartley and Brandon Savage*

Trustee Chair-Fred Ambrose  
Cemetery Chair-Eric Beebe  
SPRC Chair-Hisashi Yamagata  
Safe Sanctuaries Chair-Maryellen Brown  
Legacy Fund Chair-Buck Bartley  
Memorials Chair-Joyce Howes  
Lay Leadership-Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling/  
Bob Brown/*Ginny Weinberger*  
Salem Women-  
Salem Men-

Names in italics are new to these positions this year. **Ministry Areas**

**Basic Lay Servant:** *Debbie Ambrose*

**Worship Ministry Area:**

Altar Cloths: Charlene Lewis  
Communion: Betty Bitner and  
*Carol Odbert*

Head Usher: Joyce Howes

Acolytes: Nancy Morrell

Bulletin: Suzanne Friis

Flowers: Suzanne Friis

Candles: John Howes

Audio-Visuals: Bob Brown and  
Joyce Dean

Music Director: Rose Eide-Altman

Advent/Christmas Preparations:

Doreen Preville, Joyce Howes,  
Betty Bittner, CJ Bittner

**Worship Development Area:**

*Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling, Chair*

*Barbara Achstetter*

*Bob Brown*

*Anne Ennes*

*Kathryn Ennes*

*Sharon Lyon*

*Ginny Weinberger*

**Education Ministry Area:**

Ministry Leader: Barbara Achstetter

**Missions Ministry Area:**

Ministry Leader: Libby Wright

Appalachia Service Project: Bob Brown

**Faith Sharing Ministry Area:**

Ministry Leader(s): Rob Morell and  
Buck Bartley

Newsletter: Velma Durant

Webmaster: Suzanne Friis  
Church and Community Liason:  
Suzanne Friis

**Congregational Care Ministry Area:**

Parish Nurse: Maryellen Brown, CRNP

Salem Prayer Partners: Velma Durant,  
Joanne Keister, Patti Rinehart

Hospitality: Anne Ennes/Joyce Howes, Co-Chairs

**Women's and Men's Ministry Areas:**

Salem Women:

Salem Men:

**Resource Ministry Committees**

**Staff/Parish Relations Committee:**

Chair: Hisashi Yamagata

Lay Leaders: Bob Brown/*Ginny Weinberger*

Lay Member: Buck Bartley

2014: Debbie Ambrose

Maryellen Brown

Don Rider

2015: Joyce Howes

Ginny Wahl

Ginny Weinberger

2016: *Joe Meisner*

*George Robinson*

*Connie Sommerville*

**Safe Sanctuaries Task Force:**

Maryellen Brown, Chair

Don Rider

**Trustees:**

2014: Fred Ambrose, Chair

Joyce Dean

Joe Pustis

2015: Chet Babylon

Buck Bartley

Doug McKeever

2016: *Bob Brown*

*Sue Daley*

*Rick Myers*

**Cemetery:**

2014: Eric Beebe, Chair

John Howes

Tom Musgrove

2015: Steve Currier

2016: *Bill Lavelly*

*George Robinson*

**Finance:**

Kulley Bancroft, Chair  
 Mary Abramson, Treasurer  
 Sharon Craddock, Financial Secretary  
 Hisashi Yamagata, SPRC, Chair  
 Debbie Ambrose, Church Council Chair  
 Fred Ambrose, Trustees, Chair  
 Bob Brown/Ginny Weinberger, Lay Leaders  
 Chet Babylon

**Stewardship:**

*Buck Bartley/Brandon Savage, Chairs*  
*John Howes, Randy Kennedy, Bill Lavelly, Debbie Savage*

**Endowment:**

John Proctor, Chair  
 Libby Wright

**Legacy Fund:**

2014: Bill Lavelly  
 John Proctor  
 2015: Fred Ambrose  
 John Howes  
 2016: Buck Bartley, Chair  
 Maryellen Brown

**Memorials:**

Joyce Howes, Chair  
 Betty Bittner  
 Anne Ennes  
 Anna Unglesbee

**Lay Leadership:**

Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling, Chair  
 Bob Brown/Ginny Weinberger, Vice-Chairs  
 2014: Mary Abramson  
 John Howes  
 Sharon Lyon  
 2015: Steve Currier  
 Lois Erisman  
 Ginny Weinberger  
 2016: *Debbie Ambrose*  
*Anne Ennes*  
*Doreen Preville*

## ANNUAL EPIPHANY AUCTION AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, January 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the Community Hall. Two great events: lots and lots of fun. Bring your best chili and put it up against some of the best chili in Brookeville!

Prizes awarded to the top three vote getters. Tasting and voting begin at 6:00 pm. This will be followed by the guaranteed good time that is the Epiphany Auction. We are looking for donations of unwanted gifts that will be auctioned off by our NEW auctioneer, Steve Currier. You do NOT want to miss this evening of fun and fellowship.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> found a few members of the Congregation gathered to remember, to console ourselves in the fact that "Life is Worth the Living, because He Lives." The invitation is "Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead. Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed. Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see. All the things that really matter be at peace, and simply be." Out of all the scripture read, Psalm 121 stands out – "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? ... The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore." Please take time to read the whole of Psalm 121. Rev. Janet spoke of "Don't be Afraid:" Don't be afraid because God is with you and He knows just what you are going through. So, LIFT UP YOUR EYES TO THE HILLS, God is waiting with comfort; comfort for whatever is troubling you.

The Advent Wreath Candles were lit, the first, in remembrance of those we have loved and lost; the second is to redeem the pain of loss; the third is to remember ourselves and finally the fourth candle is lit in remembrance of our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers us.

Then, as God promised Israel beauty from ashes, we took a plain wreath, placed white roses to represent the loved ones we were remembering to make a beautiful creation to be hung in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service.





The following poem was read in part during the service: Thanks Janet, for reminding us of this Madeline L'Engle poem.

### First Coming

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He died with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. He did not wait

Till hearts were pure. In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
He came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

### Psalm 30:5

“...Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.”

## SALEM'S TRIBUTE TO JANET CRASWELL FOR HER FAITHFUL SERVICE



David, Gene, Janet and Noah

Saturday, December 28, 2013 the members of Salem UMC gathered to bid a sad goodbye to our Minister of Spiritual Formation, Janet Cranswell and her family, Gene, David and Noah Beye. We will miss you but we know in our hearts that God has other plans for you, much bigger and more challenging. So instead of a sad affair, we turned it into a happy time of “This is your Life” sort of thing.

The food table was loaded and plentiful, like a Church Pot Luck Dinner always is. Different people gave their memories of how Janet affected their lives and John Denver would have been proud of the rendition of Take Me Home Country Road sung by the members of the former ASP teams. A poem spelling out J-A-N-E-T was recited; in the background was a slideshow of activities Janet either was in charge of or participated in.

The lives Janet has touched and helped find a deeper walk with God through her ministry was something celebrated during the service after dinner. The young people especially had memories to share with the weekly meeting, ASP, and ROCK. It made one's heart leap with joy to hear the youth speaking out or showing a specially made video commemorating the way Janet had touched their lives.

Janet we will miss you but we can only say “God speed till we meet again! And thank you.”

## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

We have been offering a preschool storytime on the last Wednesday of the month. Rev. Janet had been leading this ministry. We are now looking for someone to read to toddlers, create a craft, and provide a snack as we connect with families with young children in the Brookeville/Olney Community. If you would be willing to learn how to do this, contact Rev. Sue.

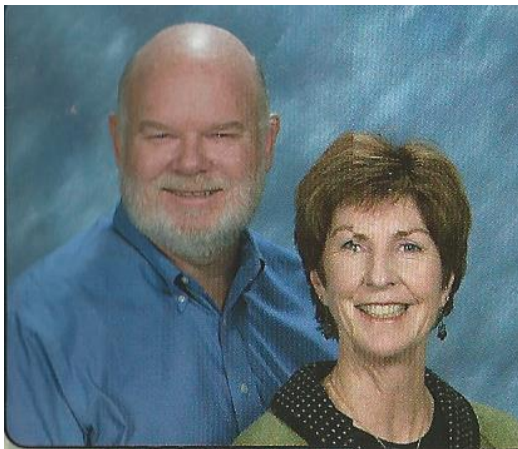
## CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS & GIFT CARDS

Again this year we were able to provide 4-baskets to the needy in our community. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness. This year we also provided a large number of gift cards from local stores so the parents could shop for their children and provide them with a nice Christmas as well.

Matthew 25:45 [New International Version](#)  
"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"

## 180 YEARS AND STILL SERVING

*Testimony from Rob McClosky*



Rob, Barb and Todd McClosky

Rob grew up in this church. Anna Ungelsbee was his Sunday School teacher. In his early adult

years, he left the church, but later by faith he returned with his wife, Barb. He remembers helping to build the addition to the church and the ramp. Rob was Finance Chair for many years. He said sometimes he learned about his faith and the faith of others. He is grateful that Salem has been like an anchor in his life.

## SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTS

### GRANDPA'S CHRISTMAS (SALEM VERSION)

Presented by the children of Salem's Sunday School on December 22 featuring Steve Carrier as Grandpa. As Grandpa enters, the children are bickering about Christmas, but Grandpa stops it with a story of the first Christmas which the children are excited to hear. With the congregation participating in singing the songs, such as "Jingle Bells" (played by the Bell Choir), "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Away in a Manger" and Brandon Savage singing "Welcome to Our World," Grandpa tells the story of the Angel that came to Mary and Joseph, their traveling to Bethlehem and the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord.



The story continued with the Shepherds with their sheep coming to worship and the Wisemen as they traveled from afar to worship the newborn King.

Isaiah 55:6 [New International Version](#)  
Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

## SALEM BY CANDLELIGHT

Christmas Eve found Salem UMC in an almost “standing room only” mode as we gathered to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior.

The Bell Choir was at its best as it rang out the wondrous carols, the Choirs Joyously “Welcome to our World”; Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling asked “Who is this Stranger?” Communion was a blessed moment when we shared “The Body of Christ,” then came the lighting of the candles, the overhead lights were extinguished and there was only the candlelight as we sang “Silent Night” and we were truly in the presence of God Himself.

We wish to thank our special singers Chuck Sterling singing “Don Oiche Ud I mBeithil” and Gene Beye, translating into English “I Sing of a Night in Bethlehem”: and our Musicians, Ian Poe-Yamagata on cello, Brandon Savage on guitar, Dean Preville on the drums and of course our own Rose Eide-Altman on Piano, Organ and Bells as well as every member of the Bell Choir for making the service a joyous one in praise of our King.

## A SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE YMCA

Salem United Methodist Church outdid itself again! Your support of Montgomery County children living in foster care is nothing short of amazing!

Our holiday party was a true community event. 130 people -- including mentees, siblings, parents and guardians, mentors and YMCA staff -- gathered to celebrate the season. There was so much for us to enjoy: a delicious dinner, craft activities, books from First Book, and a balloon clown extraordinaire. Two of our steering committee members, Agnes Leshner, Director of Child Welfare Services, and Circuit Court Judge Richard Jordan, joined us in acknowledging the far-reaching effects of the mentoring relationship. But the highlight of the evening was the giving of gifts. There were 90 children present and, because of your generous donation of 20 (and more!) gifts, every one of them received a present for the holidays.

Here is a link to photos of the event:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ymcadc-yfs/sets/72157638736194975/>. I will try to send some hard copies in the New Year.

I know that doing the gift drive is time consuming and takes a lot of planning and organizing. The weather was not exactly helpful to our cause! With that in mind, thank you for sticking to it, and for making sure the gifts arrived in time. I am truly thankful for all you do. I know the hard work that is involved, and for that, I thank you.

Best Wishes,

Laura Brown

Mentoring Recruitment Specialist

YMCA Youth & Family Services

9601 Colesville Road

Silver Spring, MD 20901

Phone: 301-587-5700 ext. 2568

Fax: 301-587-3132

## Remember our Shut-ins:

**Rev. Jeanne Klauda**, a former Salem pastor, is recovering from different health issues. Cards and notes give her encouragement. Her address is: 840 Harbor View Terrace; Annapolis, MD 21409-4641.

I have been asked to post Anna Unglesbee’s new address so you might be able to send her Cards.

Mrs. Anna Unglesbee

JK House of Grace

2832 Aquarius Avenue

Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

## Youth Group

### Youth Group Continues

Never fear! We will continue on! We will miss Janet’s leadership, but youth group will continue. We will still have fun as we continue to grow in our faith. We will gather on Sunday, Jan 5 (6:30-8:00) for a New Year of Planning and Pizza.

Don’t forget ROCK is Jan 31- Feb. 2.

Check out: [www.bwcumc.org/rock](http://www.bwcumc.org/rock)



## OUR SYMPATHY

Our condolence to the Charles Martin Family; he died on November 25 and his funeral was held at Salem on December 3. Chuck's family owned the former Martin's Dairy. He was laid to rest in Salem's cemetery following the service.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Leonard Smallwood died; a graveside service was held in Salem's cemetery on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Leonard was a friend to many in the Brookeville community.

## HAPPENINGS

### R.O.M.E.O.

R.O.M.E.O. is still going strong on Monday mornings at 9 am at Dempsey's in Ashton. All men are welcome.

### LORD'S TABLE

January 25th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm at St. Martins in Gaithersburg.

### 2014 BOOK DISCUSSION

Meetings will be held on Thursdays at 7:30 pm upstairs in the Community Hall.

Feb. 6 – The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe (non-fiction)

During her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time—and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne—and we, their fellow readers—are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us. A profoundly moving memoir of caregiving, mourning, and love—*The End of Your Life Book Club* is also about the joy of reading, and the ways that joy is multiplied when we share it with others.

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

**Hostesses/Co-Hostesses for the January time frame are:**

There will be a sign-up list on the bulletin board for volunteers for coffee hour Hostess; please take a moment and sign up for some Sundays. Thank you.

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## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Mary and Santa at Christmas Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 7 was a huge success. It was reported that over \$4,000 was made during the day and Santa was the “hit of the day.”

Mary talking with Santa- Shhh! It's a secret! Thanks to Randy Kennedy for all the wonderful pictures, I wish I could use them all but space forbids that. Our thanks to everyone who planned, participated, and attended; your help, donations and cooperation made the success possible.

## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY



Photo session for the new Church directory went well. The directories will be out sometime after the new year.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact [velma\\_durant@yahoo.com](mailto:velma_durant@yahoo.com). We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

**Our January Birthdays are:**

Gundersen, Danielle	01/02
VanHorn, Deb	01/02
Bartley, Rachel	01/03



Lange, Marilyn	01/06
Stahley-Brown, Maryellen	01/18
Gregg, Kristen	01/20
York, Marcia	01/20
Ennes, Kathryn	01/22
Robinson, Linda	01/24
Poe-Yamagata, Emma	01/27

**Our January Anniversaries are:**

Ennes, Mark and Anne 01/25

**IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Sandy Spring Lions Club:** Monday, January 27 at 7:00 pm, in Salem Community Hall.

**Eyeglass Collection:** Salem will continue to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids to donate to Lions Club. Please leave them in Salem Community Hall.

**“FOR I WAS HUNGRY...”**

**Manna Food Center:** 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, or online at [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org); to volunteer call 301-424-1130.

**Olney Help:** P.O. Box 430, Olney, MD 20830; to volunteer call 301-774-6829. They are desperately in need of rice sides (Rice-a-Roni/ Knorr sides), peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, fruit juice, snacks such as granola bars/crackers, cake mix/frosting, canned pasta. Please place items in a box in the church hallway. No glass jars.

**Millian UMC Food Pantry:** Millian UMC, 13016 Parkland Dr., Rockville opens its food pantry on the second Saturday of the month. A box for food items is in the church hallway.

**Got Clothing?**

We started a new mission this summer. The Glenmont United Methodist Church has a thrift store and has asked for donations of children’s and youth clothing plus household items such as pots and pans, other cooking utensils, etc. If you have anything you can contribute, please bring them to Salem and place them in the collection box in the side entryway. We will see they get delivered.

Speaking of delivery, I'd like a volunteer(s) that could take the donations to Glenmont UMC at least once a month, depending on quantity collected. If you can help, let me know.

Thank you, Libby

**PRAYER SHAWLS**

Prayer Shawls are available in Salem Community Hall. There is no cost; if you know anyone you want to share a prayer with all the time, see Carole Roberts or Rev. Sue for a shawl. The comfort they give is well worth the effort of delivering one to your friends, family or co-workers. They will thank you!

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Dear Friends at Salem UMC,

With deepest gratitude, thank you for the kindness of your pastor, Sue Shorb-Sterling, in opening the lines of communication as well as allowing me to include this note in your lovely newsletter. Please know how much your prayers and cards have blessed me and for the special efforts of Rev. Peggy Click. It has been a long time since I served your beautiful and historic church (beginning January 1, 1986). We shared great sacred moments and sadness as well as much laughter and loving fellowship.

When retiring in July of 2006, my plan was to be caregiver for my partner and teacher in ministry (my "adopted Mom" for over 30 years), Dr. Mary Alice Edwards who was just beginning to show signs of a form of dementia. As all of you know, our plans are not always what God has planned for our life and learning. I soon discovered a lump (about a year after my biological mother died of cancer in South Carolina) and with immediate surgery, found the cancer had spread to some lymph nodes.

*The above paragraphs are just part of a letter from Rev. Jeanne Klauda, please read the letter in it's entirety from the bulletin board. I am truly sorry I did not have space for the whole letter.*  
Velma

**AND THE ANSWER IS –**



**Our thanks go to Mary Bloom who tried, but better luck next time. Rhonda Barrett guessed correctly.**



**Bob with his beautiful bride, Helen.**

Robert H. Van Druff

Bob was born on a ranch just outside of Wagoner, Oklahoma. He rode a horse to school and because he was so young and the horse so big, it would stop for a drink of water at a creek and pull the reins from him... then go back home. His mother remedied the situation after many “homecomings” by giving him a whip to use on the horse when he tried it again.

He moved to Colorado Springs at about age 7. His mother died from the flu when he was 10 years old and he moved to Oak Creek, CO to live with an aunt & uncle as it was a hardship for his father to raise the 3 children. It was very rustic and he had to bring wood to the house every morning before school for the wood burning stoves. At about age 15 he moved back to Colorado Springs to live with another uncle. He quit school at the end of eighth grade and went to work. At age 17 he saw the movie “Follow the Fleet” with Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire which glorified the life of a sailor. Dad went to the recruiting office to join the Navy when he turned 18 and was told that he had to be a high school graduate to join; however, the man gave him a test which he passed with a very high grade and the high school requirement was waived. He became a Firecontrolman (the person responsible for the care and use of the ships guns). He was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941, bringing the US into WWII. He met Helen in May of ‘42. They were married 57 days later but he was shipped out again and didn’t return until 1945. Helen had Carmen while he was gone... she met her Daddy when she was 2 years old.

Bob’s last tour of duty before retiring from the Navy was as the head instructor at the Dam Neck Guided Missile School in Virginia Beach. He then went to work for Vitro Laboratories working on the Terrier missile and retired a second time after 20 years. It took 2 college grads to fill his shoes!

He has enjoyed retirement with all of his immediate family living in the area. He keeps busy with gardening and... crossword puzzles!

*Submitted by: Carmen Harding, his daughter*

## OUR NEXT CHALLENGE ...

**DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?**



Can you guess who this adorable little girl is?

Answer in February's Edition of the Salem News.

I hope you are enjoying these flashes from our past. Remember, if you know who this is, e-mail me at [velma\\_durant@yahoo.com](mailto:velma_durant@yahoo.com) or stop me in Church and let me know.

The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by Velma Durant, edited by Curtis Smith and formatted, and approved by Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling.